PARISH OF ST PETER'S, HALLIWELL

NEWSLETTER

Sunday 22nd November 2026

HEADLINES

- **Are we moving? New sermon series starting next week.**
- **Paul Robinson from Voice of Persecuted Christians at 6.30pm service today**
- **Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026 – Have you dropped off your items yet?**
- **Consultation on Bolton Resource Church**
- **Prayer for the week from Geoff Gunshon on behalf of the National and International Ministry Team**

Read on to find out more…

SERVICES

Sun 22 Nov

ST PETER'S CHURCH

8.30am	Morning service
10.20am	Worship for Everyone service
2pm	Baptism service
6.30pm*	Parish-wide service

SMITHILLS FELLOWSHIP

10am	Family service with Communion
2pm-3pm	An Hour by the Cross at Smithills Chapel

BARROW BRIDGE MISSION

10.30am	Worship for Everyone service

ST ANDREW'S HOPE CENTRE

10.30am	Morning service

*Livestreamed, search YouTube for 'stpetershalliwell'

We are an accessibility-friendly parish

Rev Alan writes…

Are we moving?

This Sunday is the last in our Sunday morning sermon series ***A Movement of Disciples***. The series, which started on the back of our Parish-wide Vision Service 5 weeks ago, has been a 'back to basics' of what it means to be a disciple and we have learnt from the children in Lighthouse as we have focussed on each of their five values: ***Love God and Love Others, Pray Every Day, Listen for the Holy Spirit, Read Your Bible, and Lead Others to Jesus.***



I hope, like me, you've enjoyed the series and found it helpful and thought-provoking. It has been part of our preparation for the changes that will come as we are planting a new church into Bolton town centre next year. It's an exciting opportunity for St Peter's to continue its rich legacy of sending people out into the mission field. We are a movement of disciples and as we send people out, we also need to use the opportunity to help people to grow as disciples and step into some of the gaps that are inevitably left by the people who we are sending out. So, in a sense, the sermon series has been a prompt to ask the question: ***"how is God calling us?"*** and invite us to make a response to grow in our commitment as a disciple of Christ.

So, if you've felt prompted to grow as a disciple and step into some of the gaps that will be created, and like me, you love your church and want to grow in your commitment, then please get in touch and we can explore the exciting new ways God might be asking us to follow his call on our lives and church!

Next week we start a new morning series for Advent called ***The Movement of God***, looking at how God moves towards us and calls us on his mission.



6.30pm Service Today



Our guest speaker today at the parish-wide 6.30pm service is Paul Robinson. Paul was born in Scunthorpe, son of a steel worker, and had no church upbringing. He left home at 16 to join the parachute regiment, where he gave his life to Christ in the barracks at the age of 19. Following Jesus in the army wasn't always easy for him. God led him through careers in IT, Church ministry and the Red Cross before calling him to serve as CEO of Voice of Persecuted Christians, a role he's held for the past 14 years.

VOICE OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Christmas Dinner on Jesus 2026 – Have you dropped off your items yet?

We need to collect **1600 x 500g ready-to-eat custard in Tetra Paks and 900 x jars of cranberry sauce.**

Please bring them **ASAP** to church or the Parish Centre.

If you'd prefer to donate money so we can buy items on your behalf, scan this QR code or go to: https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/31402

To nominate someone to receive a food hamper this year, please contact a member of the Leadership Team in your fellowship by **Weds 25 Nov at the latest.**

Consultation on Bolton Resource Church

If you haven't done so already, you have until **Mon 30 Nov 2026** to provide feedback to Rev Alan in relation to the Bishop of Manchester's formal consultation on the Bishop's Mission Order. This is the legal document which will allow the establishment of the Bolton Resource Church plant. If you wish to participate, you can access the documents on the diocese website: https://www.manchester.anglican.org/consultation-on-new-bolton-resource-church/.

Subject to consultation, approval and readiness, it is hoped the Resource Church will begin formally in Spring 2027

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Manchester | CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Baptise and Share

Baptism

Sun 22 Nov, 2pm, St Peter's

We welcome **Freddie** and **Maia TOFALOS** and thank God for the gift of these children and for their parents, Godparents, family and friends on this special occasion.

Primary School Form Signings 2027 Entry

Thurs 3 Dec, 6pm-8pm, Parish Centre

Church supplementary forms will be signed but, in order to attend, **you must book a timed slot** by contacting office@stpetersparish.info /01204 599900. You will need to provide: child's name, parent's name, contact details and state which church you attend.

CAP Christmas Requests

We're giving our CAP clients' children a Fairtrade 'Real' Christmas advent calendar as a way of sharing the true meaning of Christmas. If you'd like to contribute (each one is £4.95), please give donations to Sam via the Parish Office. We would also really appreciate £5 or £10 supermarket vouchers to give to families at Christmas and any nice boxes of 'smellies' for women/men. Please pass to Sam/drop off at the Parish Centre by **Sun 6 Dec**. Many thanks.

christians against poverty CAP Bolton North

Christmas Bookstall

St Peter's, now until 13 Dec

Please support our wonderful local Christian bookshop – Isaiah 53 – and take a look at the cards, books, calendars and lots of great gift ideas on offer. Please note, this is a **cash only** stall.

Meet

An Hour by the Cross

Sun 22 Nov, 2pm-3pm, Smithills Hall Chapel

Looking for a moment of quiet before the busy Advent season is upon us? If so, why not join us at this reflective service. There will be no sermons just gentle music, prayerful readings, and space to sit in quiet reflection by the cross. One hour to rest in God's presence. All are welcome.

Halliwell Local History Society

Tues 24 Nov, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

Talk by Steve Williams - 'Four Tins'. All welcome. Info: enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk

HLHS

Wreath Making Workshops – Book Now!

Fri 27 Nov 7.30pm (wicker wreath) and Sat 28 Nov 9.30am (moss wreath), St Peter's Primary School





Limited places are available at these two brilliant workshops so book your place now. All are invited to join us (men and women). Cost £30 with all profits going to Smithills Market in support of Urban Outreach. For more information and to book your place, contact Jan Hunter via email Jan.hunter3@icloud.com ASAP.

Bolton Christian Meditation Group

Thurs 26 Nov, 2pm-3pm, Parish Centre

All welcome at this session. No need to book, just turn up. For info, contact j.wilde.1963@gmail.com

The Mastersingers 'A Prelude to Christmas'

Sat 28 Nov, 4pm, St Peter's Church

Not to be missed! Featuring St Peter's Christmas Choir! All welcome. Tickets (£12, u16's free) from https://www.ticketsource.com/mastersingers/prelude-to-christmas/2026-11-28/16:00/t-mjrqznd or from the Parish Office or Rob and Sue Wilding.

Service of Hope and Remembrance

Sun 29 Nov, 2pm, St Peter's Church



An opportunity for you to remember your loved ones and be reminded of the peace and comfort that comes from God, our Heavenly Father. Service followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Soul Sisters' Christmas Social Event

Fri 4 Dec, 7.30pm, Parish Centre

All ladies welcome to join us for this informal get together. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz. Feel free to bring any festive treats you'd like to share! No need to book, just turn up!

Out and About Walk

Sat 5 Dec, 10am, meet on Smithills Dean Road at corner of entrance to Smithills Hall *NB: different time and meeting place to usual

A 5-mile local walk finishing around 12.30pm in time for the annual Smithills Christmas Market on Redcar Road where there'll be plenty of food to purchase for lunch whilst supporting Urban Outreach. All welcome.

Pray

Prayer for Church Plant

Rev Josh says 'Thank you for praying for the Bolton Resource Church in the lead-up to launch. Here are three things we'd love you to pray for over the coming weeks.

- The Christian Union's Christmas event, Weds 9 Dec. Pray for the Christian Union as they host their Christmas event at the university. Pray that students would feel at home, that new friendships would begin, and that there would be natural opportunities to share the hope we have in Jesus.
- The Bolton Deanery consultation. Pray that what we hear from local churches would help shape the plans for the Resource Church. Ask God for wisdom as we take the next steps and for good relationships as we serve Bolton together.
- Finding our place on the team. Pray that each person would have time to listen to God and discern where and how he is calling them to serve. Ask that people would find joy in using their gifts, see where their passions might lead them, and have the courage to try something new.

Prayer Zone

Weds 2 Dec, 7.30-8.30pm, St Andrew's (Hope Centre)

Gather from across the parish for an hour of dynamic prayer and worship.

Youth and Children's Ministry Lead

We are advertising again for a Youth and Children's Ministry lead. **Please spread the word and pray that we can find the right person to help lead and develop our youth and children's ministry**. Rev Alan is happy for anyone to contact him for an informal conversation about the role**. Closing date is Tue 1 Dec 2026.** Full details and an application form can be found at: www.stpetersparish.info/jobs.

Prayer for the Week

Geoff Gunshon, on behalf of the National and International Ministry team, invites us to pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world. ***See his prayer on the back page.***

Looking Forward

13th Smithills Christmas Market

Sat 5 Dec, 12.30pm-3.30pm, Redcar Rd, Bolton

Offers of help and people to craft/make and sell products at this amazing 'not-for-profit' street market needed. Please contact j.t.platt@me.com. Please invite your friends, families and neighbours to this brilliant festive event!

Marco Players and Farnworth Performing Arts Present 'Christmas Showcase'

Tues 15 Dec, 7.30pm, St. Peter's Church



Join us for an evening of carols, songs and drama to get you right in the mood for Christmas! Tickets (£12 adult, u18 £10, family ticket £40) from **https://www.themarcoplayers.net/bookings** or call 0333 666 3366.

Prayer from Geoff Gunshon on behalf of the National and International Ministry Team

Almighty and everlasting God. Creator of all things and provider for all needs. We thank you that you love and care for each and every part of your creation.
We know that since the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, his followers have suffered persecution in many forms. We pray for our mission partners who go throughout the world aiding and protecting those who are imprisoned, victimised and cast out because of their love for you.
We ask for your guidance and provision for all concerned, the persecutors, persecuted and the protectors.
We ask this. In the sure knowledge that you hear and answer our prayers.
In Jesus' name. Amen.

Some Activities Coming Up…

Date & Times	Activity	Details	Location
Mon 23 Nov			
10am-1.30pm 10am-12noon	Ageing Well with Strength and Balance Coffee Room	office@stpetersparish.info Drop-in for coffee and cake. All welcome	Parish Centre
Tues 24 Nov			
9.45am-11.30am	Tots on Tuesdays	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
10am-11.30am 6pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-9pm 7.30pm	St Peter's Baby and Toddler Group Ignite KS2 Children's Tread Youth Group Halliwell Local History Society	office@stpetersparish.info ignite@stpetersparish.info tread@stpetersparish.info enquiries@halliwell-lhs.co.uk	Parish Centre
Weds 25 Nov			
9am-12noon	Hope at the Hub	Drop-in community session, all welcome	St Andrew's
10am-11.45am	Open Door Ladies' Group	Music, Advent and Memories - Jackie Godley. Val 07902 167971	Parish Centre
Thurs 26 Nov			
8.30am-9am	Prayer Meeting	Julie 07835 014470	St Andrew's
2pm-3pm	Bolton Christian Meditation Group	j.wilde.1963@gmail.com	Parish Centre
10.30am-12noon	Oasis Coffee Morning and Service	Refreshments 10.30am, service 11.30am	St Peter's
Fri 27 Nov			
10.30am-12noon 10am-12noon 7pm-9pm	Friday Life Connect Group Watercolours Class Stressbusters Badminton	denis.collier@gmail.com Lucinda 07977 821119 Geoff 07835 388732	Parish Centre
Sat 28Nov			
9am-12noon	INTERACT Performing Arts	Lucy/Emma 07896 724531	Parish Centre

Keep Connected

Parish Business Manager: Amanda Blease — **E:** amanda@stpetersparish.info / **P:** 01204 599900
Finance Officer: Joanne Greenhalgh — **E:** finance@stpetersparish.info / **P:** 01204 599901
Vicar: Rev Alan Saunders — **E:** alan@stpetersparish.info / **M:** 07767 643444 / **P:** 01204 599909
Wardens: Simon Scott and Chris Ward — **E:** wardens@stpetersparish.info
Pioneer Minister: Rev Josh Openshaw — E: josh@stpetersparish.info / **M:** 07534 309265
CAP Debt Centre Manager: Sam Wolstencroft — **E:** samwolstencroft@capuk.org / **M:** 07934 716509 / **P:** 01204 599903
Caretaker: David Park — **E:** david@stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Parish Centre
347 Church Road, Bolton BL1 5RR
www.stpetersparish.info

St Peter's Halliwell
@StPetersHalliwell
@stpetershalliwell